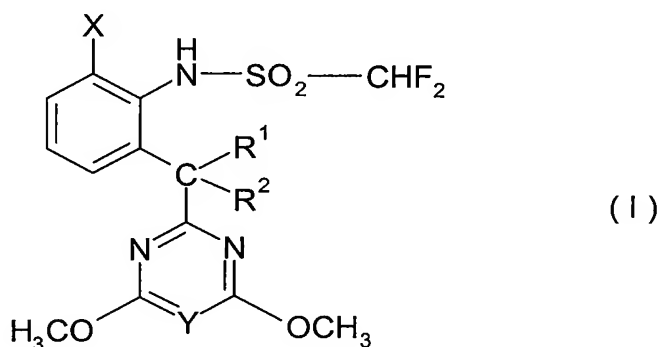


### *Amendments to the Claims*

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1) 1. (Currently amended) ~~Novel difluoromethanesulfonamide derivatives~~  
~~represented by A compound of~~ the formula (I)



wherein

X represents halogen,

Y represents CH or N,

R<sup>1</sup> represents hydrogen, and

R<sup>2</sup> represents hydrogen or hydroxy, or

R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> together with the carbon atom to which they are ~~bonded~~ may attached  
form C=O.

2) 2. (Currently amended) ~~Compounds set forth in Claim 1~~ A compound  
according to claim 1, wherein

X represents fluorine or chlorine,

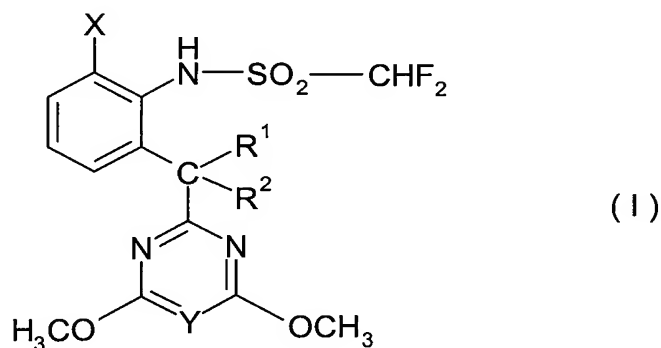
Y represents CH or N,

R<sup>1</sup> represents hydrogen, and

R<sup>2</sup> represents hydrogen or hydroxy, or

$R^1$  and  $R^2$  together with the carbon atom to which they are ~~bonded~~ may attached form C=O.

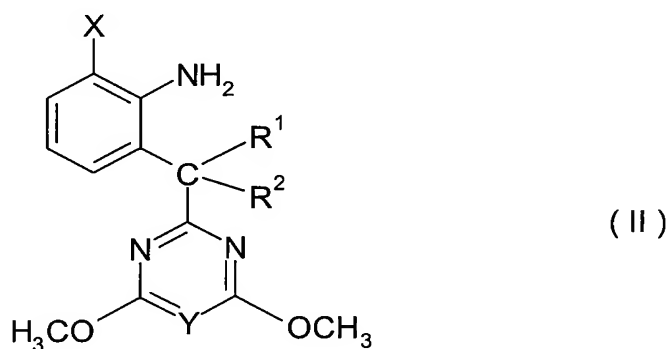
3) 3. (Currently amended) A process for preparing ~~the compounds~~ a compound of the formula (I) according to claim 1,



wherein

X, Y,  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  ~~are defined~~ are defined as in claim 1, ~~characterized in that comprising,~~

a) ~~compounds~~ reacting a compound of the formula (II)

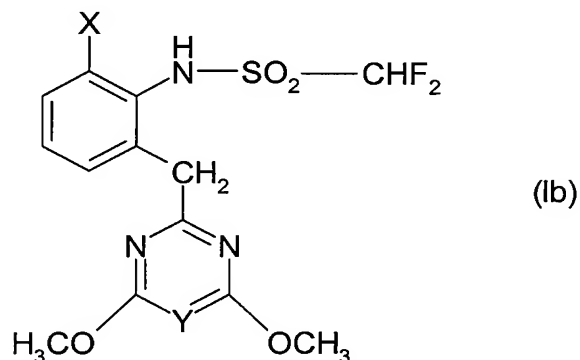


wherein

X, Y,  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  have the same definition as aforementioned, ~~are reacted~~ with difluoromethanesulfonyl chloride in the presence of an inert solvents solvent, and if ~~appropriate~~ optionally, in the presence of an acid binding agent, or

- b) ~~in case that~~ when  $R^1$  and  $R^2$  together form  $C=O$  with the carbon atom to which they are attached:

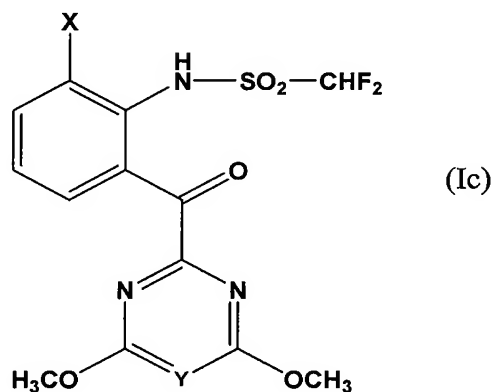
~~compounds~~ reacting a compound of the formula (Ib)



wherein

X and Y have the same definition as aforementioned,  
~~are reacted~~ with an oxidizing agent in the presence of an inert solvents-solvent, and if  
~~appropriate~~ optionally, in the presence of an acid catalyst,  
or

- c) ~~in case that~~ when  $R^1$  represents hydrogen, and  $R^2$  represents hydroxy:  
~~compounds~~ reacting a compound of the formula (Ic)



wherein

X and Y have the same definition as aforementioned,  
~~are reacted~~ with an alkali metal hydride complex compound or a borane complex  
in the presence of an inert solvents-solvent.

4) 4. (Currently amended) ~~Herbicidal compositions, characterized in that they~~  
~~contain~~ A herbicidal composition comprising at least one compound of the formula (I)  
according to claim 1.

5) 5. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ A process for combating paddy field weeds,  
~~characterized in that~~ comprising, contacting a paddy field weed or its habitat with at least  
one compound of the formula (I) according to claim 1, ~~is allowed to act on paddy field~~  
~~weeds and/or their habitat.~~

6) 6. (Cancelled)

7) 7. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ A process for the preparation of ~~herbicidal~~  
~~compositions~~ a herbicidal composition, ~~characterized in that~~ comprising, mixing a  
compound of the formula (I) according to claim 1 ~~is mixed with extenders and/or~~  
~~surface active agents.~~ one or more extenders or one or more surface active agents, or a  
combination of one or more extenders and one or more surface active agents.